Application Number 10/670,595
Responsive to Office Action mailed August 21, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A medication compliance device comprising:

a base station having a local wireless communication link, user interface and a memory, ~~the base station for receiving and storing medication-taking data and compliance data~~;

a portable cap assembly for association with a container of medication, the portable cap assembly comprising:

a local wireless communication link;

a memory;

an indicator;

a sensor; and

a controller for directing the communication link to receive and transmit and the memory to store the medication-taking data, for directing the indicator to activate according to the medication-taking data, for directing the sensor to gather and the memory to store ~~the~~ compliance data that indicates whether the sensor sensed that a user has taken a plurality of doses of the medication in compliance with the medication-taking data, and for directing the local wireless communication link to transmit the compliance data to the base station,

wherein the base station receives the compliance data from the cap assembly via the local wireless communication link, stores the compliance data in the memory of the base station, and presents the compliance data via the user interface.

Claim 2 (Original): The device of claim 1 wherein the medication-taking data further comprises a medication-taking regimen.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The device of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the portable cap assembly further comprises:

a transparent top with a child-proof lock mechanism.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The device of claim ~~3~~ 1 wherein the ~~wireless communication is via~~ communication link comprises infrared light emitting diode.

Claim 5 (Original): The device of claim 1 wherein the base station transmits the compliance data to a remote location through a data network.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The device of claim 1 ~~and further comprising:~~

~~a programming station for programming the portable cap assembly with the medication taking data;~~

wherein the portable cap assembly further comprises:

a cap; and

a collar between the cap and an opening of the container for attaching the cap to a the container, the collar including the memory of the cap assembly, ~~and interfacing with the programming station.~~

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The device of claim 6 wherein the collar further comprises:

a ~~pivoting~~ movable base movable relative to the container while the collar is attached to the container from a first position in which the opening is substantially covered to a second position in which the opening is exposed for dispensing medication from the container.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The device of claim 1 wherein the indicator ~~is~~ comprises at least one of a visual indicator, an audible indicator, or a tactile indicator.

Claims 9 and 10 (Cancelled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A medication compliance ~~device~~ system comprising:

a portable cap assembly for attaching to a container, the cap assembly having memory for storing medication-taking data and compliance data, local wireless communication for transmitting the medication-taking data and compliance data, a first indicator for indicating when a user should take a dose of medication stored in the container based on the medication-taking data, and a sensor for sensing that the user has taken the dose of medication, wherein the compliance data stored in the memory indicates whether the sensor sensed that the user has taken a plurality of doses of medication in compliance with the medication-taking data; and

~~a programming station for programming the portable cap assembly with the medication-taking data; and~~

a base station ~~having~~ that supports local wireless communication for receiving the medication-taking data and the compliance data from the portable cap assembly, base station memory for storing the medication-taking data and the compliance data, a user-interface for presenting the compliance data, and wired communication for transmitting the compliance data to a remote location.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The ~~device~~ system of claim 11 wherein the portable cap assembly further comprises:

a collar ~~removably~~ connected adjacent an opening of the container, the collar comprising the memory of the portable cap assembly; and

a cap removably attached to the collar, wherein the collar is positioned between the cap and the opening. ~~; and~~

~~wherein the collar and container are disposable and the cap is reusable.~~

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The ~~device~~ system of claim 12 wherein the portable cap assembly further comprises:

a ~~pivoting~~ movable base that moves relative to a stationary base of the collar from a first position in which the opening is substantially covered to a second position in which the opening is exposed for dispensing the medication from the container; and

wherein the sensor senses cap movement due to movement of the movable base, which is stored as compliance data.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The ~~device~~ system of claim 11 wherein the base station is ~~programed~~ programmed with medication-taking data from a remote location.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The ~~device~~ system of claim 11 and further comprising:

a computer terminal electrically coupled to the programming station for programming the portable cap assembly with the medication-taking data.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The ~~device~~ system of claim 11 wherein the base station further comprises:

a second indicator for indicating when the user should take the dose of medication based on the medication-taking data received from the cap; and

wherein the second indicator is activated when the cap is within a range for local wireless communication with the base station.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A medication compliance system comprising:

a portable medication dispenser ~~having~~ including an indicator for inducing compliance with ~~medicaton~~ medication-taking data, and a sensor for obtaining compliance data over time regarding consumption of contents of the dispenser;

a base station in local wireless communication with the dispenser, wherein the base station ~~for transmitting~~ receives the compliance data from the ~~senser~~ dispenser, and displays the compliance data to a user; and

a first remote computer in communication with the base station, the first computer for receiving the compliance data from the base station. ~~; and~~

~~a programming station in communication with a second computer, the programming station for interfacing with the dispenser to program the dispenser with the medication taking data.~~

Claim 18 (Original): The system of claim 17 wherein the base station and first computer communicate through a data network.

Claim 19 (Original): The system of claim 18 wherein the data network is coupled to a data server for storing data for the system.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The system of claim 17 wherein ~~the~~ a second computer transmits the medication-taking data to the base station, which transmits the medication-taking data to the dispenser.

Claim ~~22~~ 21 (Currently Amended): A medication compliance device comprising:

a collar for attaching adjacent an opening of a medication container, the collar having a first communication link and a memory for storing medication-taking data and compliance data; and

a cap attached to the collar such that the collar is between the cap and the opening, the cap further comprising:

a first communication link;

an indicator for inducing compliance with the medication-taking data;

a sensor for sensing compliance with the medication-taking data;

a microcontroller for engaging communication with the collar through the communication link, activating the indicator according to the medication-taking data, ~~and~~ gathering the compliance data regarding a plurality of sensed compliance events from the sensor, and storing the compliance data in the memory of the collar via the first communication link.

Claim ~~23~~ 22 (Currently Amended): The device of claim ~~22~~ 21 wherein the cap further comprises:

a second communication link for transmitting the medication-taking data and compliance data such that the data is accessible through a data network.

Claim ~~24~~ 23 (Currently Amended): The device of claim ~~22~~ 21 wherein the collar further comprises:

a second communication link for receiving the medication-taking data.

Claim ~~25~~ 24 (Currently Amended): The device of claim ~~22~~ 21 wherein the indicator is a visual indicator.

Claim ~~26~~ 25 (Currently Amended): The device of claim ~~22~~ 21 wherein the indicator is an audio indicator.

Claim ~~27~~ 26 (Currently Amended): The device of claim ~~22~~ 21 wherein the collar further comprises:

a stationary base adjacent the opening of the container;

a ~~pivoting~~ movable base coupled to the stationary base between the opening and the cap; and

wherein the ~~pivoting~~ movable base ~~pivots~~ moves relative to the stationary base while attached to the stationary base from a first position in which the opening is substantially covered to a second position in which the opening is exposed to dispense the ~~medication~~ medication, and the sensor senses movement of the ~~pivoting~~ movable base.

Claim ~~28~~ 27 (Currently Amended): A method of inducing and tracking compliance with a medication-taking regimen, the method comprising:

receiving medication-taking data in a portable medication container;

alerting a user to take a dose of medication based on the medication-taking data;

gathering compliance data in the portable medication container over time regarding consumption of contents of the portable medication container; ~~and~~

transmitting the compliance data from the portable medication container to a base station by local wireless communication; and

presenting the compliance data to the user via the base station.

Claim ~~29~~ 28 (Currently Amended): The method of claim ~~28~~ 27 ~~and~~ further comprising:

transmitting the compliance data from the base station to a data network; and

accessing the compliance data from the network.

Claim ~~30~~ 29 (Currently Amended): The method of claim ~~28~~ 27 wherein medication-taking data is received and compliance data is gathered for a plurality of users.

Claim ~~31~~ 30 (Currently Amended): The method of claim ~~28~~ 27 wherein medication-taking data is received and compliance data is gathered for a plurality of medications.

Claim ~~32~~ 31 (Currently Amended): The method of claim ~~29~~ 28 wherein accessing the compliance data is carried out with proprietary software for programming a remote terminal, tracking the medication-taking data and compliance data, displaying the medication-taking data and compliance data, and generating custom reports.

Claim 32 (New): The method of claim 27, further comprising transmitting the medication-taking data from the portable medication to the base station by local wireless communication, wherein alerting a user to take a dose of medication based on the medication-taking data comprises alerting the user to take the dose of medication via the base station.

Claim 33 (New): The device of claim 21, wherein the collar is located between the cap and the opening of the medication container.

Claim 34 (New): The device of claim 26, wherein the movable base comprises a pivoting base that pivots relative to the stationary base.